

PRESS RELEASE

December 15, 2005

RE: UNITED STATES v. ABDULLAH MANSOOB

Acting United States Attorney Kathleen M. Mehlretter, announced today the filing of a Criminal Complaint charging Abdullah Mansoob, age 60, with making a false statement to the United States Social Security Administration, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1001, carrying a maximum penalty of 5 years imprisonment and a fine of \$250,000. The Criminal Complaint also charges Mansoob with converting approximately \$22,615.00 in property of the United States in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 641, carrying a maximum penalty of 10 years imprisonment and a fine of \$250,000.

Mansoob was arrested in Detroit, Michigan on December 6, 2005 after arriving on a flight from Yemen. Mansoob was born in Yemen and is now a naturalized United States citizen. The Criminal Complaint alleges that Mansoob has been receiving Social Security Income benefits since September 1993 due to a mental impairment and a back-related disability. As alleged in the Criminal Complaint, SSI recipients are not eligible for SSI payments while they are outside the continental United States for a full calendar month or 30 consecutive days. The Criminal Complaint further alleges that Mansoob traveled

extensively outside the continental United States for longer than 30 consecutive days and as such became ineligible for SSI benefits. The approximate overpayment of SSI payments to Mansoob due to his absences from the United States between February 2002 and June 2005 totals \$22,615.00.

It should be noted that “the fact that a defendant has been charged with a crime. . . is merely an accusation and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. (**Disciplinary Rule 7-107(B)(6)**).

Assistant U.S. Attorney Allison P. Gioia, who will handle the case, stated that Mansoob made his first appearance in the Western District of New York on December 15, 2005 and was released on bail. The next court appearance is scheduled for February 2, 2006 at 9:00 a.m. before United States Magistrate Judge Hugh B. Scott.

The arrest and filing of the Criminal Complaint against Mansoob was the result of an investigation coordinated by the United States Social Security Administration, Office of the Inspector General, with the assistance of the United States Secret Service.